

NATIONAL PARKS of CANADA

Prairie Provinces



FOREWORD

The National Parks of Canada are areas of natural beauty and special interest that have been "dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment". Established primarily for the preservation of the unspoiled natural landscape and for the protection of the native wildlife, they are to be "maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations".

The discovery of mineral hot springs, bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain, by engineers exploring the route for Canada's first transcontinental railway, led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From this small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks system has been extended until it embraces 29 separate areas totalling more than 29,000 square miles.

Although a few parks have been devoted chiefly to the conservation of certain species of big game animals once threatened with extinction, some contain sites memorable in the early history of Canada. Others have been developed so that park visitors may more conveniently view the magnificent scenery and relax in the enjoyment of the inspirational and peaceful environment. From the sea-girt hills on the Atlantic Coast across the rivers and lakes of Central Canada to the alpine vistas of the Rockies and Selkirks, these national playgrounds provide ideal areas for nature study and for recreation.

It is the responsibility of the National Parks Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to administer these natural areas for the enjoyment of Canada's present and future generations. By progressive stages the parks have been made more easily accessible, wildlife scientifically managed, public services provided, and accommodation and recreational facilities expanded. A staff of experienced wardens keeps constant vigilance throughout these park areas to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna, as well as the safety and convenience of park visitors. Conservation of the forests, the flowers, and the natural wildlife is their chief concern, and the co-operation of all visitors in this important work is greatly appreciated.

In marking, preserving, and restoring sites of national historic importance the National Parks Branch is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing various parts of the country. From the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia to Fort Battleford in Saskatchewan, twelve such sites are administered as National Historic Parks, and many other places of historical importance have been suitably commemorated.

The National Parks of Canada are part of a great national heritage, and under careful administration will continue as a perpetual asset—undiminished by use—for all future generations.

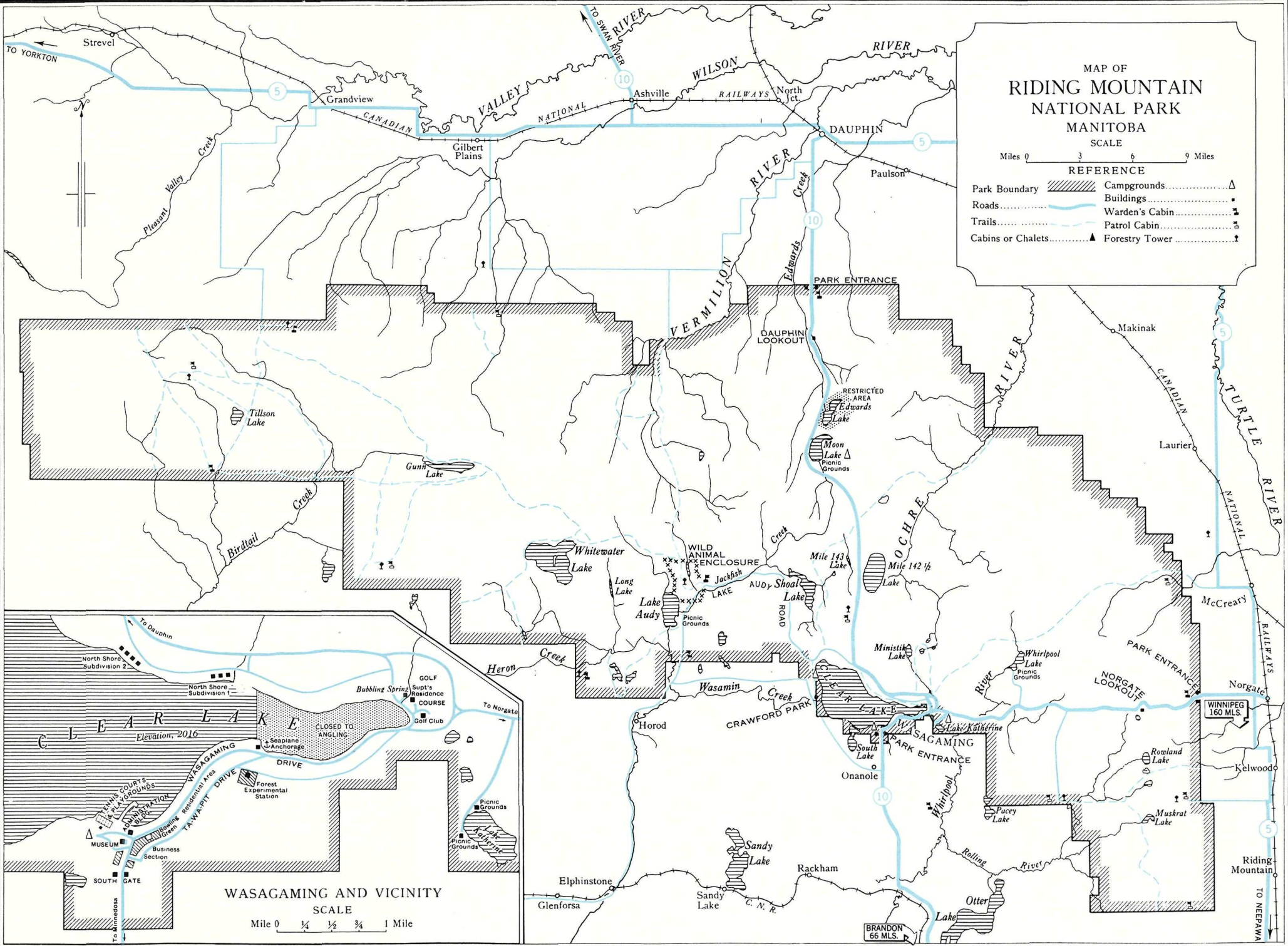
ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE
HONOURABLE DOUGLAS S. HARKNESS, MINISTER OF
NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

MAP OF RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK MANITOBA

SCALE
Miles 0 3 6 9 Miles

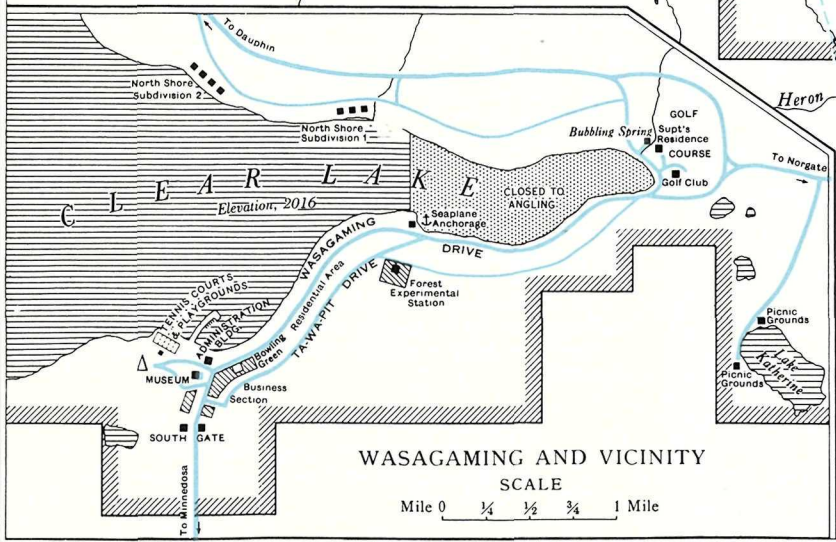
REFERENCE

Park Boundary		Campgrounds	
Roads		Buildings	
Trails		Warden's Cabin	
Cabins or Chalets		Patrol Cabin	
		Forestry Tower	



WASAGAMING AND VICINITY

SCALE
Mile 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 Mile



RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

MANITOBA

Location and Description

Riding Mountain National Park is situated in the mid-western part of Manitoba, approximately 125 miles north of the International Boundary between Canada and the United States. The park occupies the broad, undulating plateau that forms the summit of Riding Mountain, one of the highest points of the Manitoba escarpment. The heavily timbered uplands of Riding Mountain, which rise to a height of 2,200 feet above sea-level, are in pleasing contrast to the surrounding fertile plains. The park was established in 1929, and contains an area of 1,148 square miles.

Many of the small lakes with which the area is abundantly endowed nestle between the ridges and in the hollows made by ancient glaciers. Clear Lake, the largest and most beautiful body of water in the park, lies just above the southern boundary. The lake is nine miles long and more than two miles across at the widest point. Other lakes in the park include Audy, Katherine, Ministik, Moon, Edwards and Whirlpool.

The townsite of Wasagaming, an Indian name meaning "clear water", is situated on the southern shore of Clear Lake, and is a summer resort only. Within the townsite are business and residential sections. Nearly 350 summer cottages have been erected to date. The business subdivision comprises several blocks and contains the usual commercial facilities found in a modern townsite. The Post Office is located on Wasagaming Drive, and the telephone and telegraph offices are on Ta-wa-pit Drive. A medical centre and a resident doctor are also available.

How to Reach the Park

The park is linked by hard-surfaced or gravelled all-weather roads with the main provincial highways of Manitoba. There are three entrances, the southern, eastern, and northern gateways, which are located at the park boundaries. The southern approach is through the town of Minnedosa on Highway No. 4, then north by Highway No. 10 to the southern gateway of the park, located half a mile from Wasagaming, the administrative headquarters. Approach to the eastern gateway is made via Highway No. 5 from Neepawa to Norgate and then westward to Wasagaming. The northern gateway is about eight miles south of the town of Dauphin on Highway No. 10, which connects with Provincial Highway No. 5.

Buses, which connect with the main provincial bus-line services of Manitoba and Saskatchewan leave Brandon, Minnedosa and Dauphin daily for the park. There is a daily bus service from Winnipeg in July and August. Information concerning bus-line connections may be secured from the Greyhound Bus Lines, Winnipeg and Dauphin, and from the Manitoba Motor Transit Ltd. at Brandon. Rail connections with bus or taxi service to the park may be made from Neepawa, Norgate, Dauphin, and Erickson on the Canadian National Railways, Neepawa and Minnedosa on the Canadian Pacific Railway system, and from the city of Brandon, served by both railway systems.

PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK

SASKATCHEWAN

Location and Description

Prince Albert National Park, situated in the central part of Saskatchewan, contains an area of 1,496 square miles and is an outstanding example of the lake and woodland country that lies north of the great agricultural prairies. The general elevation of the park is about 1,800 feet above sea-level. It straddles the height of land between the great watershed areas of the Churchill and Saskatchewan Rivers, but nearly all the larger lakes of the park drain northward into the Churchill. Prince Albert Park was established in 1927.

An outstanding feature of the park is its remarkable lake system. Hundreds of lakes, varying in size from tiny rock basins to bodies of water twenty miles long, dot the landscape. White sand beaches line the shores of many of these crystal lakes, which reflect the surrounding forests. Under normal water conditions these lakes form connected waterways, and provide exceptional opportunities for canoe and boat trips. The largest and best known are Halkett, Waskesiu, Kingsmere, Crean, Lavalee, Wassegam, Tibiska, Namekus, and Hanging Heart Lakes.

The townsite of Waskesiu is situated at the eastern end of Lake Waskesiu and is a summer resort only. It contains all the services customarily found in a modern summer community and is the centre of park activity. A post office and long distance telephone are among the services available in the townsite. The Museum Building houses an interesting collection of wildlife species native to the area. A doctor is in residence at Waskesiu during the summer months.

How to Reach the Park

The park is reached over the main provincial highway system that connects with the park highways extending from the southern and eastern boundaries. The main approach is from the City of Prince Albert to the southeast corner of the park, a distance of 36 miles. The park headquarters at Waskesiu are 30 miles farther north. The highway is paved all the way from Prince Albert to Waskesiu.

Approach may also be made over a provincial road from Shellbrook connecting with the Rabbit-Meridian road at the southwest corner of the park.

The nearest railway station is located at Prince Albert, which is served by lines of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railway systems. A bus service is operated daily from Prince Albert to Waskesiu, and return. Prince Albert National Park may also be reached by air. The park lies along the route of the Saskatchewan Government Airways from Prince Albert to Lac La Ronge, via Montreal Lake. Connections with the Trans-Canada Airlines may be made at Regina by the Canadian Pacific Air Lines from Prince Albert. A seaplane anchorage has been established in the park at Lake Waskesiu, and is available to commercial air services as well as to aircraft engaged in forest patrols.

ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

ALBERTA

Location and Description

Elk Island National Park, situated in central Alberta about 30 miles east of Edmonton, is the largest fenced animal preserve in Canada. It contains an area of 75 square miles and occupies a portion of the extensive irregular region known as Beaver Hills. Evidences of the Ice Age are visible where the low hills are worn smooth, and many small lakes nestle between the ridges and in the hollows left by the retreating glaciers.

The park was originally reserved in 1906 as a sanctuary for elk, moose, and mule deer in the region, and since 1907 has formed a habitat for part of the herd of buffalo purchased that year by the Government of Canada. It is surrounded by strong fencing, with fireguard strips ploughed inside the fence for fire prevention purposes.

Of the many lakes in the park, Astotin, situated in the northern part, is the finest and largest. It is a beautiful body of water approximately 2½ miles wide, and is dotted with more than twenty islands. Of these, Long Island, situated near the western shore, is the largest. Near the southern shore is Elk Island, to which the park owes its name. Several of the islands, including Long, Elk, Pine, and Archer are connected with the mainland by rustic foot-bridges. On the eastern shore of Astotin Lake is an area known as Sandy Beach, the recreational centre of the park. In the section of the park north of Highway No. 16 are Tawayik, Little Tawayik, Oster, Paul, Long, Adamson, Moss, Spruce, Mud, and Oxbow Lakes.

The park is mainly a forested area but between the heavy growths of poplar on the main range are open meadows, rich in wild hay, which provide excellent grazing areas for the wild animals.

How to Reach the Park

Elk Island National Park may be reached by the provincial highway system of Alberta through southern, western, and northern gateways. The southern gateway is situated on Highway No. 16 about midway between Edmonton and Vegreville. From this gateway on all-weather road through the park passes the administrative headquarters on Astotin Lake. The western gateway is reached by a road which connects with Highway No. 15 at a point about six miles east of Fort Saskatchewan. The northern gateway is reached by a good road from Lamont, on Highway No. 15, four miles distant. The distance from park headquarters to the south gate is nine miles, and to the north gate eight miles. The west gate is less than a mile from the administration buildings. A hard surfaced highway may be followed from the International Boundary through Edmonton to the park.

Registration and Motor Licences

Motorists entering these National Parks must register and obtain park motor licences as required by the regulations governing the use of national park highways:

- (1) General licence good for any number of trips during the fiscal year ending March 31, which will be honoured in all national parks in Canada. Automobile, \$2; auto with trailer attached, \$3.
- (2) Special licence good for any number of trips during the fiscal year ending March 31, which will also be honoured in Waterton Lakes and Point Pelee National Parks; Automobile, \$1; auto with trailer attached, \$2.
- (3) Single trip licence: Automobile, 25 cents; auto with trailer attached, 50 cents.

Special licences may be obtained for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

Accommodation

The publication entitled "Accommodation in Canada's National Parks" contains up-to-date information, including the name, location, capacity, rates and plan, covering tourist accommodation available in these national parks. Copies may be obtained from the park superintendents or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau at Ottawa.

Unless visitors are carrying their own camping equipment, or have cabin trailers, it is advisable to arrange accommodation in advance.

Camping

Many visitors to Canada's National Parks bring along their own camping equipment or arrive in cabin trailers. For their convenience, camp-grounds have been laid out and equipped in some of the choicest locations in the parks.

The publication entitled "Camp-grounds and Trailer Parks in Canada's National Parks" contains up-to-date information, including the name, location, capacity, facilities available and fees, on all camping grounds in the national parks. Copies may be obtained from the park superintendents or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau at Ottawa.

Angling—The publication entitled "Anglers Guide to Canada's Prairie National Parks" is available free of charge. It contains up-to-date information about the most popular fishing places in these parks and a list of the species to be caught.

A fishing licence is required and is good in any of these parks during the season. The fees are: One-month licence, \$1; season licence, \$2.

The co-operation of anglers in completing creel census cards is greatly appreciated.

Bathing and Swimming—Many of the fresh water lakes in these parks have excellent sandy beaches where bathing and swimming may be enjoyed under safe and pleasant conditions. At the main beaches, swimming is supervised by competent instructors; buildings equipped with dressing rooms are available for public use.

Boating and Canoeing—Boats and canoes may be hired at the main park beaches, and motor launches are available for cruises. The extensive network of lakes and narrows in Prince Albert National Park makes it possible to travel great distances by canoe and motor-boat.

Cycling—A bicycle is a great convenience for sightseeing in these parks since it can be used not only on the main highways but on many of the secondary roads and trails leading to numerous beauty spots.

Golf—18-hole golf courses of championship calibre in picturesque settings are operated by the National Parks Branch in Riding Mountain and Prince Albert National Parks and there is also a fine 9-hole course in Elk Island Park. Attractive clubhouses are at the disposal of visitors making use of the golf courses. The green fee is \$1.25 for 18 holes with comparable rates for daily, weekly, monthly and season periods.

The fairways are flanked by beautiful growths of trees, and the greens are maintained in excellent condition.

Hiking and Riding—Leafy forest trails in these parks provide excellent opportunities for hiking and riding. Saddle horses may be hired locally.

Lawn Bowling—Bowling greens are operated by the National Parks Branch in all three parks for the pleasure and recreation of visitors.

Motoring—Park highways provide numerous opportunities for scenic motor drives to places of out-standing beauty and interest. Most of these highways are tree-lined; many skirt the shores of fresh water lakes and run deep into wilderness areas.

Museums—Museums containing interesting collections of exhibits relating to the park areas provide an added attraction for visitors.

Playing Fields—Areas suitable for playing baseball, softball and other field sports have been provided by the National Parks administration; also well-equipped children's playgrounds.

Roller Skating—Outdoor roller skating rinks at Riding Mountain and Prince Albert Parks are popular with visitors.

Sailing—Sailing is growing in popularity in all three parks and many keen sailors bring along their craft year after year. Docking facilities are available at the main beaches.

Sightseeing—A majority of visitors to these national parks expect to do some sightseeing. Even visitors who return year after year find something new and interesting left over for another vacation. Much of the scenery is accessible by motor car, but the more adventurous travel by waterways or trails into remote areas where wildlife abounds and fishing is often at its best.

Tennis—Tennis courts in sylvan settings are operated by the National Parks Branch for the enjoyment of visitors to these parks. Dressing-room facilities are at the disposal of players.

Flora and Fauna



Although these national parks are in the Prairie Provinces they are not prairie in character—if one imagines the prairie as a flat, treeless plain. For the most part the parks are forested areas dotted with lakes and open meadows. These are the "prairie parklands" and the forests include poplar, spruce, tamarack, jackpine, balsam fir, Manitoba maple and many other species common to this region. Flowers and flowering shrubs grow in colourful profusion.

Wildlife in these parks provide one of the main attractions. In addition to the buffalo herds, there are elk, moose, mule deer, bear, beaver, timber wolves, coyotes, and many smaller animals. Bird life is abundant. Waterfowl nest on the many lakes in these parks and song birds enliven the forests.

In Prince Albert National Park one of the largest rookeries of American white pelicans in Canada is located on several small islands in Lavallee Lake; cormorants are also found there in large numbers.

Wildlife Protection

The National Parks Act requires that all parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the use of future generations. Therefore, all wildlife within park boundaries is rigidly protected, and hunting and the possession of unsealed firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are game sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals or birds and their nests. Dogs or cats are not allowed in any national park except under special permission and licence.



The Buffalo Herds



The main buffalo herd, numbering more than 1,000 animals, is at Elk Island Park, but there are also small exhibition herds at Prince Albert and Riding Mountain Parks.

The buffalo, or bison, are the largest wild animals in existence on the North American continent; the story of their threatened extinction provides one of the classic examples of wildlife conservation in Canada.

In its natural state, the buffalo once ranged in vast herds over the grasslands of the interior of North America. It is quite understandable that, to the early settler and trader, the buffalo must have appeared inexhaustible; its numbers are said to have reached millions. With the advent of modern firearms, however, and as a result of the indiscriminate slaughter of these magnificent animals, the picture was soon to change. By the end of the last century it would have been difficult to find a single buffalo roaming the Canadian plains in a wild state.

Fortunately at that critical time an opportunity was afforded to re-establish the plains buffalo in Canada by the acquisition of the greater part of the only remaining herd on this continent. This herd had been built up by two Montana ranchers from four young calves captured near the International Boundary.

Negotiations for the purchase of this herd were successfully concluded in 1906 and, after overcoming many difficulties in the round-up and shipment, 716 head of buffalo were brought safely north during the years 1907-12. Although the first shipments were sent to Elk Island Park, later ones went direct to the newly-established Buffalo National Park at Wainwright, also in Alberta. Subsequently, all animals at Elk Island, with the exception of some 48 too wild to capture, were transferred to the new park. From this small, vigorous band has grown the present splendid herd of buffalo at Elk Island National Park, regarded as the finest on the North American continent.

Parks Administration

All national parks in Canada are administered by the National Parks Branch. Resident superintendents are in charge of the local administration of Riding Mountain, Prince Albert and Elk Island National Parks. Information concerning accommodation, recreation, wild animals, roads and trails, together with literature and detailed maps may be obtained from the parks information offices. The park regulations are enforced by the park warden service assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Fire Prevention

Visitors are requested to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fires. Smoking materials and camp-fires should be completely extinguished.

Camp-fires should be kindled only at places provided for the purpose. Persons using the park trails unaccompanied by a licensed guide should acquaint themselves with the park regulations and secure particulars concerning suitable camp-sites and other related information. Persons making extended trips into park areas from railroads or park highways must register with the park superintendent before departure.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished if possible. Fires which cannot be put out promptly should be reported to the nearest park officer. A fire in a national park may cause damage which cannot be repaired in a century.

Films

Motion picture films, 16 m.m., mostly in colour with sound, depicting National Parks of Canada are available through various distribution outlets in Canada and the United States.

Full information can be obtained from all regional offices of the National Film Board in Canada, and from the Canadian Travel Film Libraries at:

400 West Madison Avenue, CHICAGO, Ill., and
630-5th Ave., NEW YORK 20, N.Y., U.S.A.

*Compiled in cooperation with the
National Parks Branch
Department of Northern Affairs
and National Resources, Ottawa.*

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Fort Prince of Wales, Manitoba

This, the most northerly fortress on the North American Continent, was built in the years between 1733-1771 in order to secure control of Hudson Bay by the Hudson's Bay Company. It was surrendered to, and partly destroyed by a French naval force in 1782. The ruins, which were among the most interesting military remains on the continent, are gradually being rebuilt. The park covers an area of 50 acres and is situated opposite the port of Churchill.

Lower Fort Garry, Manitoba

On the west bank of the Red River, 20 miles north of Winnipeg, stands this old stone-walled fort built between 1831 and 1839 by the Hudson's Bay Company. It was occupied by this Company until 1911.

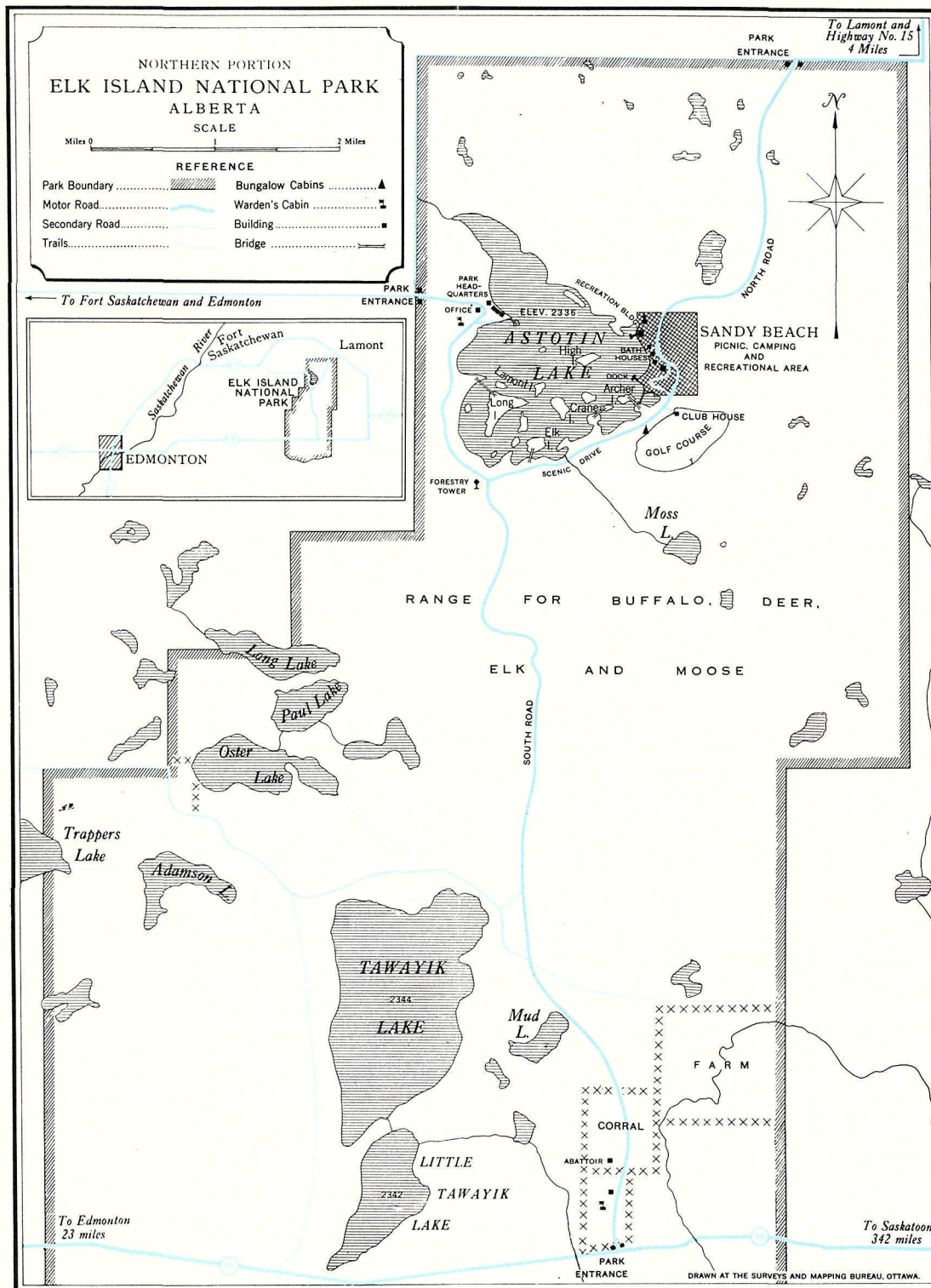
There are five buildings located within the stone walls of the structure in a good state of repair. The fort area, including the bastions, comprising nearly 13 acres has now been established as a national historic park.

Fort Battleford, Saskatchewan

Situated four miles south of the city of North Battleford, this park is accessible by Provincial highways No.'s 4 and 5 and is also served by the Canadian Pacific Railways. Some of the buildings form part of the original North West Mounted Police Post established there in 1876. The park area is surrounded by a log stockade and the original buildings house an interesting museum collection pertaining to the North West Mounted Police, the Indians, the fur trade, the early settlers and the general development of the West. The site, comprising 36.7 acres, was established a national historic park in 1951.

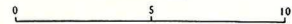
For additional copies of this publication, or other information on the National Parks of Canada, write to:

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
TRAVEL BUREAU
OTTAWA - CANADA



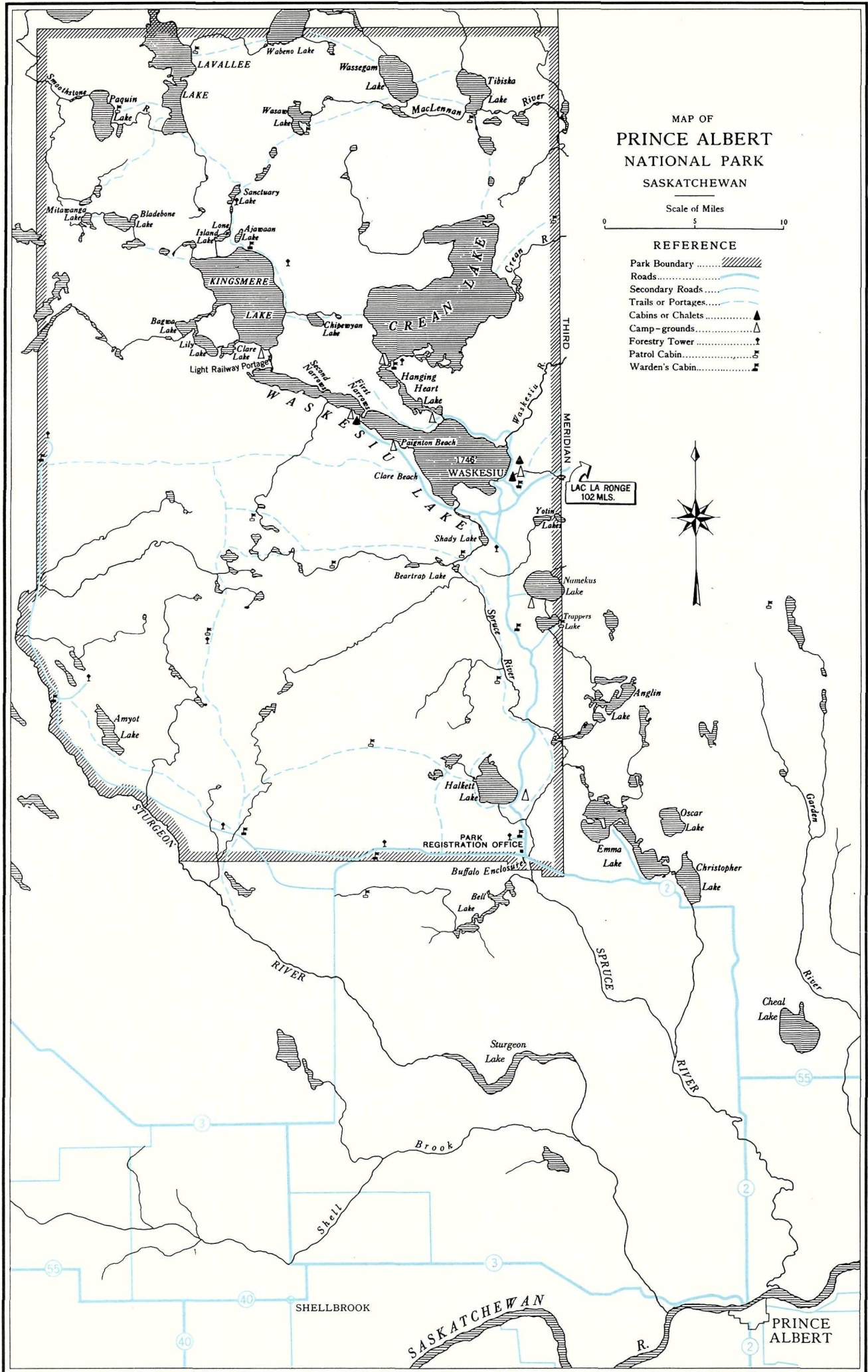
MAP OF
PRINCE ALBERT
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 SASKATCHEWAN

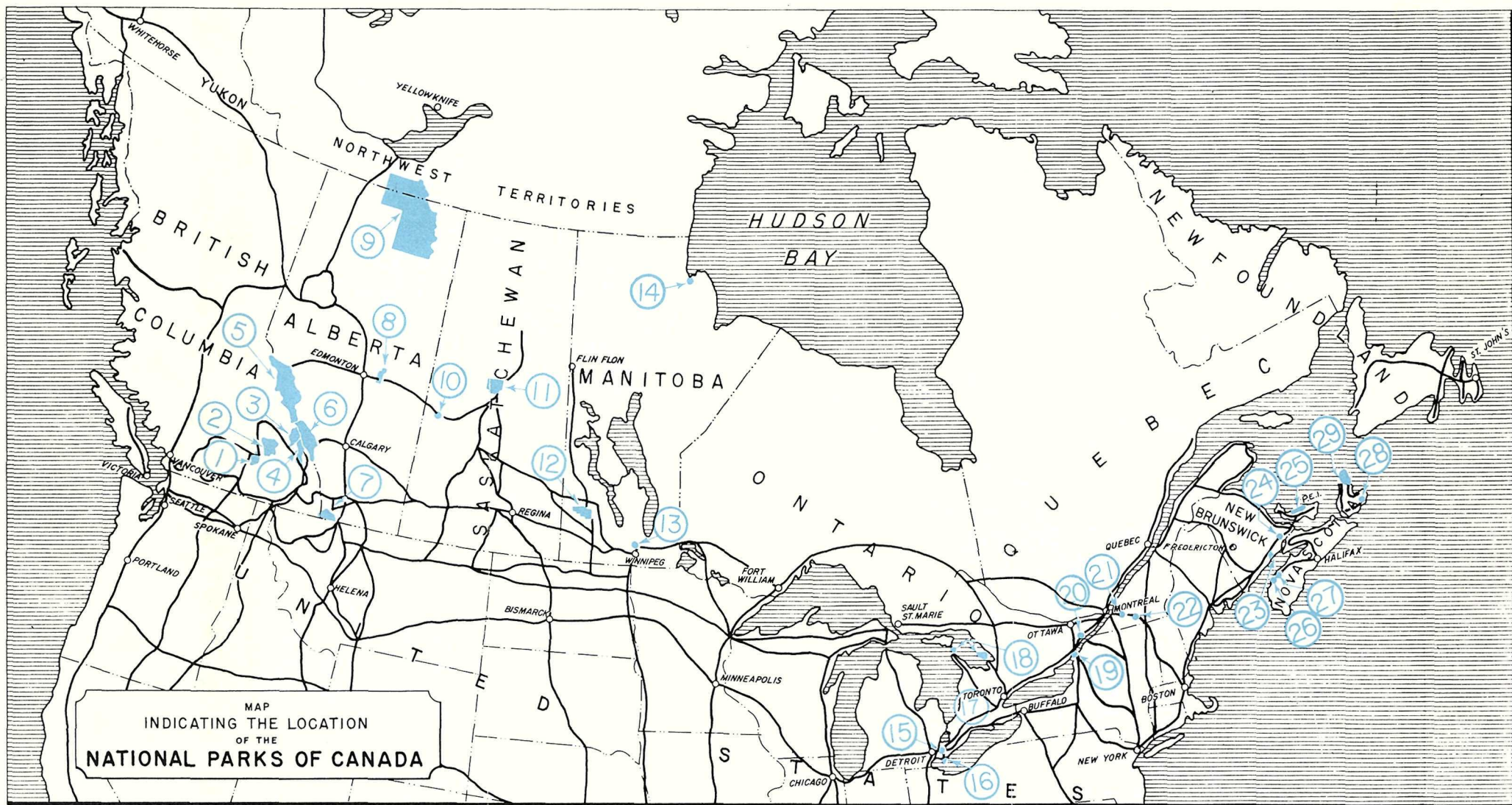
Scale of Miles



REFERENCE

- Park Boundary
- Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Trails or Portages
- Cabins or Chalets
- Camp-grounds
- Forestry Tower
- Patrol Cabin
- Warden's Cabin





DRAWN AT THE NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, OTTAWA, 1954

KEY OF MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mount Revelstoke | 8. Elk Island | 15. Fort Malden | 22. Fort Lennox |
| 2. Glacier | 9. Wood Buffalo | 16. Point Pelee | 23. Fundy |
| 3. Yoho | 10. Fort Battleford | 17. Woodside | 24. Fort Beausejour |
| 4. Kootenay | 11. Prince Albert | 18. Georgian Bay Islands | 25. Prince Edward Island |
| 5. Jasper | 12. Riding Mountain | 19. St. Lawrence Islands | 26. Port Royal |
| 6. Banff | 13. Lower Fort Garry | 20. Fort Wellington | 27. Fort Anne |
| 7. Waterton Lakes | 14. Fort Prince of Wales | 21. Fort Chambly | 28. Fortress of Louisbourg |
| | | | 29. Cape Breton Highlands |